

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

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R 271225Z JUN 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0719

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TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC NEWSPAPER TRANSLATIONS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCLANT FROM COMICEDEFOR JUNE 26 REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

P R 261825Z JUN 75

FM COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

TO RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

INFO RUCBSAA/CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

RUCBSAA/LANTCOMOSUPFAC NORFOLK VA

RUEBNEB/COMOCEANSYSLANT NORFOLK VA

RUDISDF/AMEMB REYKJAVIK IC

UNCLAS //N03800//

ICELANDIC NEWSPAPER TRANSLATIONS

A. ADMIN COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC 191415Z JUN 75

B. ADMIN COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC 202040Z JUN 75

C. COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC 231520Z JUN 75

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY NEWSPAPER ALTHYDUBLADID FOR 26 JUN

PRINTED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED CABLE SHIP

WHICH WAS TAKEN IN MID APRIL OFF ICELAND'S SOUTH COAST.

PHOTOS FROM JANES ALL THE WORLD'S FIGHTING SHIPS ARE

REPRINTED FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION WITH USS THOR (ARC-4)

OR USS AEOLUS (AR-3). ONE SIMILAR PHOTOGRAPH APPEARED

IN 26 JUNE THJODVILJINN (PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER)

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WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION MATERIAL. TRANSLATIONS OF CONTINUING

PRESS COVERAGE FOLLOW:

2. (FULL TEXT, THJODVILJINN 26 JUNE 1975):

IS THE CABLE LAYING SHIP FROM STOKKSNES ON SELVOGSBANK? THE PHOTOGRAPH WITH THIS ARTICLE WAS TAKEN BY KRISTJAN KRISTJANSSON, MARINE ENGINEER ON BOARD THE STERN TRAWLER VESTMANNAEY VE-54, FROM THE WESTMEN ISLANDS, LATE IN APRIL OR PERHAPS EARLY IN MAY. AT THAT TIME THE TRAWLER WAS FISHING IN AN AREA REFERRED TO AS THE TOE, A SMALL EXTENSION OF GOOD BOTTOM FROM THE CONSERVATION AREA ON SELVOGSBANK OFF THE SOUTH WESTERN CORNER OF THE COUNTRY. KRISTJAN TOLD THJODVILJINN THAT THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THIS BEING A CABLE LAYING SHIP AND HE ADDED, THAT THE VIEW OF THE CREW OF THE TRAWLER IS, THAT THIS IS THE SAME SHIP WHICH INSTALLED THE FAMOUS CABLE OFF STOKKSNES. HE SAID THAT THE MARKINGS ON THE FUNNEL OF THE SHIP HAD CLEARLY INDICATED THIS TO BE A RESEARCH OR A SERVICE SHIP OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY. KRISTJAN SAID THAT THE SHIP HAD BEEN MOVING IN THIS AREA FOR A FULL DAY OR SO AND THAT THE CREW OF THE TRAWLER HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE WHAT THEY WERE DOING. "WE GUESSED THAT THEY WERE PAINTING RUSSIAN LETTERS ON BOUYS AND THROWING THESE OVER THE SIDE", SAID KRISTJAN. THE SHIP WHICH CAN BE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND IS THE RESEARCH SHIP BJARNI SAEMUNDSSON.

3. (FULL TEXT, ALTHYDUBLADID 26 JUNE 1975)\$

THE CABLE SHIP IS AN AMERICAN NAVY SHIP. IS THERE BETTER EVIDENCE AVAILABLE THAN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS? BY GISLI S. LOFTSSON: ONCE MORE ALTHYDUBLADID PRODUCES NEW ITEMS ON THE CABLE SHIP AND THIS TIME WE PUBLISH PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SHIP. THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN ON BOARD THE STERN TRAWLER VESTMANNAEY BY TWO CREW MEMBERS AND SHOW CLEARLY THAT THIS IS A CABLE LAYING SHIP. THE SHIP HAS BEEN AT THIS COUNTRY THROUGH THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND HAS BEEN SEEN AT LEAST AT SELVOGSTA AND AT STOKKSNES. AFTER ALTHYDUBLADID HAD RECEIVED THESE PHOTOGRAPHS, THESE WERE COMPARED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE FOUND, SHOWING THE CABLE LAYING SHIPS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY. THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TO BE FOUND IN THE BOOK "JANES FIGHTING SHIPS", WHICH CONTAINS INFORMATION ON NEARLY ALL WARSHIPS AND SUBMARINES IN THE WORLD. IN THAT BOOK THERE ARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF TWO AMERICAN CABLE LAYING SHIPS, BOTH BELONGING TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY. THESE ARE THE SISTER SHIPS THOR (ARC 3)

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AND THE AEOLUS (AS 3). IF ONE COMPARES THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE VESTMANNAEY AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS OFFERED IN THE BOOK, THESE ARE IDENTICAL. ONE OF THE TWO SHIPS COULD THEREFORE BE THE ONE WHICH HAS BEEN HERE. IT IS MOREOVER INTERESTING THAT AS FAR AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHS THE SHIP IS WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION, EXCEPT FOR AN INSIGNIA ON ONE OF ITS TWO FUNNELS, WHICH APPEARS TO BE THE AMERICAN EAGLE. IT CAN BE SEEN CLEARLY IN ONE OF THE TWO PHOTO-

GRAPHS WHERE THE CABLE IS PAID OUT FROM THE FRONT END OF THE SHIP. THE JANE SHIP BOOK: TWO SUCH SHIPS ARE IN THE NAVY. IT IS RATHER COMMON TO CONVERT OLDER SHIPS INTO CABLE LAYING SHIPS AND THIS HAS BEEN DONE WHERE THESE TWO SISTER SHIPS ARE CONCERNED. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE BOOK "JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS", THE THOR WAS PREVIOUSLY NAMED VANADIS (AKA 49) WHILE THE AEOLUS WAS NAMED TURANDOT (AKA47). THE AEOLUS WAS DE-COMMISSIONED IN 1946, TAKEN BACK INTO USE BY THE UNITED STATES NAVY ON 5 NOVEMBER 1954 AND THEN CONVERTED INTO A CABLE LAYING SHIP AND HAS BEEN USED AS SUCH SINCE MAY 1955. THE THOR WAS BUILT BY WALSH KAISER COMPANY AND BEGAN CABLE LAYING DUTIES 3 JANUARY 1956. THE SHIPS ARE UNARMED, HAVE HELICOPTER LANDING PLATFORMS AND ARE FITTED WITH SIMILAR COMMUNICATIONS MASTS. BOTH SHIPS ARE 7,949 TONS, SPEED IS 16.9 KNOTS, MAIN ENGINES 6000 HP. THE TWO SHIPS ARE OF IDENTICAL LENGTH. THE SAME SHIPS. THE TOP PHOTOGRAPH TO THE RIGHT SHOWS THE AELOUS (AR 3), OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY. THE SHIP WAS CONVERTED INTO A CABLE LAYING SHIP OR A REPAIR SHIP (IN 1954). THE CENTER PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS THE CABLE LAYING SHIP THOR (AR4), A SISTER SHIP TO THE AELOUS. THE BOTTOM PHOTOGRAPH TO THE RIGHT WAS TAKEN BY CREW MEMBERS OF THE STERN TRAWLER VESTMANNAEY OF A CABLE LAYING SHIP OFF THE SOUTH COAST OF ICELAND RECENTLY AND THE RESEARCH SHIP BJARNI SAEMUNDSSON IS IN THE BACKGROUND. A COMPARISON OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH WITH PHOTOGRAPHS FROM "JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS" SHOWS THAT THE SHIP IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE CABLE LAYING SHIP WHICH HAS BEEN OFF ICELAND'S SHORES OF LATE. IN THE SMALL PHOTOGRAPH BELOW WE SHOW THE FUNNEL OF THE CABLE LAYING SHIP. THE FUNNEL CARRIES AN INSIGNIA AND AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE THE INSIGNIA IS THE AMERICAN EAGLE. THE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE FRONT PAGE AND ON THIS PAGE ARE OF THE CABLE LAYING SHIP AND TAKEN FROM THE VESTMANNAEY BY KRISTJAN KRISTJANSSON AND GUDMUNDUR ALFREDSSON.

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